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Summary Record of NSC Standing Group Meeting No. 9/63
July 9, 1963 -- 5:00 PM

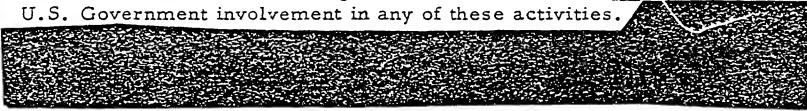
1. Progress report on integrated action program toward Cuba

Desmond Fitzgerald reviewed developments and actions of the past three weeks since the approval by the group of the integrated action program for Cuba. He mentioned two events which are scheduled for the 26th of July. He was reading from notes.

Mr. Harriman called attention to the relation of action in Cuba to his mission to Moscow. He said he hoped to be out of Moscow by the 25th or 26th of July. He appeared anxious to avoid giving the Russians an opportunity to raise with him our Cuban policy on the basis of actions which had taken place during the time he was in Moscow.


It was agreed that the next meeting would be a discussion of the State/USIA paper containing a draft statement of what we hoped to see develop in a post-Castro Cuba.

There was a discussion as to how to handle press inquiries about developments in Cuba such as raids from outside Cuba and sabotage actions within Cuba. It was agreed that we should flatly deny any U.S. Government involvement in any of these activities.



2. Report on Spain (copy of paper attached)

There was general agreement with the report on U.S. policy toward Spain. However, doubt was expressed that the offer proposed in the report would appear sufficiently attractive to the Spanish to cause them to renew the base agreement.



Mr. Johnson said there may be a period of cliff hanging in the fall. However, we

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must not rush matters even though the present agreement expires in September.

There were two views as to what would have to be offered, in addition to our present offer, to induce the Spanish to renew the agreement.

Secretary Dillon

said there was strong Congressional opposition to military assistance to Spain. In addition, Congressmen were strongly opposed to giving assistance to countries which are buying gold (Spain is one of the most consistent gold buyers in the present market). Mr. Bell felt that we would have major difficulty with Congress over the Spanish aid program.

There was a discussion as to when we need to bring to a conclusion the Spanish base negotiations.

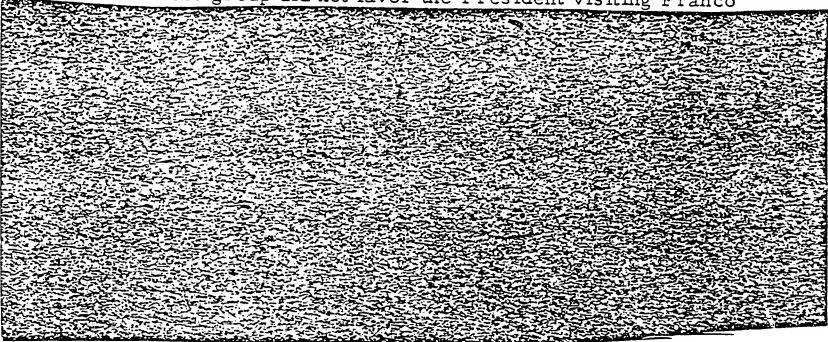
Although we could operate on a temporary agreement extended month by month, it would be better for all concerned if we could reach agreement in the early fall with the Spanish.

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Mr. Bell noted that the report under discussion did not include mention of the ways Spain now benefits from the presence of our troops in Spain. He suggested that any document to be used as a background for the negotiations include a discussion of this aspect of the Spanish problem. He felt that the Spanish did obtain major benefits from us, including U.S. Government expenditures in Spain, as a result of our presence there.

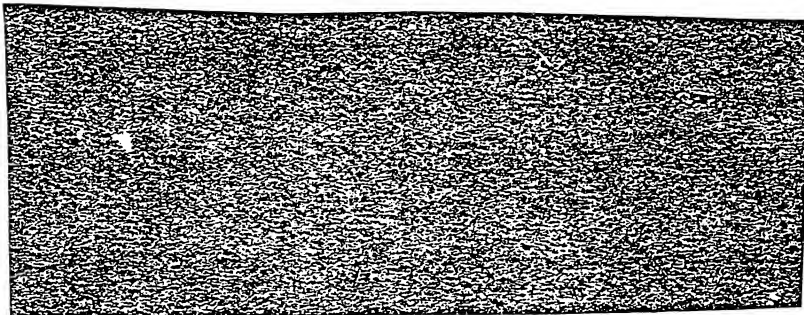
The Attorney General recalled that the Spanish Ambassador had told him that all our problems with Spain would be resolved if the President would spend an hour with Franco. The discussion which ensued revealed that the group did not favor the President visiting Franco



Mr. Johnson said he had been assigned responsibility for negotiating with Ambassador Garrigues. Ambassador Garrigues had presented a letter stating that the Spanish Government had named him as the base agreement negotiator. However, a Spanish military representative, Munoz Grandes, had said that the Ambassador was charged with the political aspects of the agreement while he would negotiate the military clauses of a renewal agreement. Mr. Johnson thought that the Ambassador may have been given a time period, for example, three months, during which he would be operating with a free hand. At the termination of this period, Franco might shift the locale of the negotiations and possibly the negotiator if Garrigues had not by then been able to carry out his promise to obtain an agreement highly advantageous to Spain.

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Bromley Smith

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